



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor


15 March 2004

Week of 15 March 2004


SUSPENSION CALENDAR


1) ***Thanking C-span for its Service to the House of Representatives on the 25th Anniversary of its First Coverage of the Proceedings of the House*** (H.Res. 551). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.


2) ***Myron V. George Post Office Designation Act*** (H.R. 3733). 
This bill will not increase direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or reduce revenue.

3) ***Honoring the Life and Legacy of Luis A. Ferre*** (H.Res. 433). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.

4) ***Honoring the Life and Legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Recognizing His Contributions on the Anniversary of the Date of His Birth*** (H.J.Res. 87). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.

5) ***Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act*** (H.R. 3782). 
This bill amends the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to do the following: increase, to \$25 million (subject to appropriations), the authorized maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program (and up to \$50 million for the capture or information leading to the capture of Usama bin Laden); expand the eligibility criteria for receiving an award; authorize nonmonetary awards; publicize the existence of the rewards program, and for other purposes. Because the awards are subject to appropriations, the bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

6) ***To Recognize More than 5 Decades of Strategic Partnership Between the United States and the People of the Marshall Islands in the Pursuit of International Peace and Security*** 
(H.Con.Res. 364).
This resolution has no budgetary implications.

7) ***Relating to the Liberation of the Iraqi People and the Valiant Service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition Forces*** (H.Res. 557). 
This resolution has no budgetary implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: *Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act* (H.R. 1375). 

Committee: Financial Services

Summary: This bill changes the way financial institutions operate and the way the Federal Government regulates them. National banks, under the bill, will be able to more easily operate as S corporations or adopt other alternative organizational structures. Thrift institutions are given some of the same investment, lending, and ownership options available to banks. Credit unions are given new options for investments, lending, mergers, and leasing Federal property. The bill provides the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation [FDIC] with new enforcement authorities and modifies regulatory procedures governing certain types of transactions, such as the establishment of de novo branches and interstate mergers. It also gives agencies more flexibility in sharing data, retaining records, and scheduling examinations, and would limit the legal defenses that the United States could use against certain claims for monetary damages.

Cost: The bill, as reported, reduces Federal revenue by \$37 million over the next 5 years. The bill also increases direct spending by \$17 million over the next 5 years. It is expected that the bill will be amended either through language self-executed through the rule, or through a manager's amendment. The expected amendment will strike the component of the bill that precludes the use of certain legal defenses in claims for damages against the United States arising out of the implementation of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 [FIRREA]. That provision would have increased the cost of litigating and resolving such claims by a total of \$15 million over the next 5 years.

Budget Act: In general, the Congressional Budget Act applies to bills as they are reported from their committees of jurisdiction. Under that procedure, this bill as reported would exceed – by \$1 million in fiscal year 2005, and by \$15 million over 5 years – the Financial Services Committee's allocation of new budget authority. It would therefore be subject to a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act (unless waived by the rule).

As noted above, however, it is expected that the bill will be amended – through a manager's amendment or a rule that includes self-enacting legislative language – to exclude the provision causing the breach. Section 315 of the Budget Act allows a bill to be corrected by taking up, before consideration of the bill itself, language made in order as original text. Hence whether a point of order applies will depend on the method the Committee chooses to make the amendment. With such an amendment, this bill would warrant a green flag instead of a yellow.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget